

## Solutions for America's Energy Crisis

Our country needs to take a new direction on energy policy. For far too long we have been dependant on foreign oil to meet our energy needs. This dependence threatens our security, hurts our economy and is costing Pennsylvania's families more and more at the pump. Congressman Altmire supports policies that will reduce gas prices, invest in alternative sources of energy such as nuclear and coal, and increase our energy independence.

### Long Term Solutions

Increase  
Domestic Oil Supply

Oil and gas companies currently hold leases to 68 million acres in the Outer Continental Shelf and federal lands in the western U.S. that are not being explored. The House Natural Resources Committee estimates that these lands could produce up to 4.8 million barrels of oil a day. This oil could be in production within three to five years, compared to production in new areas such as the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge that are ten years away, according to the Department of Energy. On June 26, 2008, Congressman Altmire voted in favor of the Responsible Federal Oil and Gas Lease Act (H.R. 6251) to encourage the oil and gas companies to fully utilize the 68 million acres.

### Reduce Demand through Higher Car Fuel Efficiency

Last December, Congress passed the first increase in fuel economy standards for cars and light trucks in 30 years, increasing the required average fuel economy from 27 to 35 miles per gallon. When fully implemented, these provisions will save the average American up to \$1,000 a year at the pump and reduce oil consumption by 4 million barrels a day. The Energy Independence and Security Act (H.R. 6) was signed into law on December 19, 2007.

Invest in  
Nuclear and Coal Technologies

Western Pennsylvania's vast coal resources and strong nuclear industry are a tremendous source of economic growth for our region. The construction of new nuclear reactors and additional funding for clean coal technologies, such as carbon capture and sequestration, will allow us to develop more energy here at home and move away from our dependence on foreign sources. Congressman Altmire is a strong supporter and vocal advocate of coal and nuclear technologies.

Promote  
Conservation, Create Green Jobs

At a time of record profits from the big oil companies, the federal government continues to subsidize them with billions of taxpayer dollars. These subsidies were supposed to end when the price of oil reached about \$40 a barrel. The \$18 billion in unnecessary subsidies should instead be invested in renewable energy technologies and to encourage energy conservation, including greater use of energy efficient light bulbs, appliances, and the construction of LEED-certified buildings. On February 28, 2008, Congressman Altmire voted in favor of the Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act (H.R. 5351) to invest \$18 billion in alternative energy, energy conservation, and energy efficiency.

Short Term Relief

Curtail Excessive Energy Market Manipulation  
and Speculation

A 2006 non-partisan report found that \$20 to \$30 of the price of oil was caused by excessive speculation or manipulation. Reforms should be implemented to close the "Enron Loophole," which has led to the manipulation and excessive speculation in unregulated energy commodity markets. On June 26, 2008, Congressman Altmire voted in favor of the Energy Markets Emergency Act (H.R. 6377) to investigate and punish oil speculators who are driving up oil prices.

Suspend  
Shipments to the Strategic Petroleum Reserve

Until July 1, 2008, daily shipments of 70,000 barrels to the SPR were made despite it being 97 percent full. Industry analysts have said that these shipments contributed to the

increase in the price of gas. As a result of Congressional action, shipments were suspended to increase the domestic supply of oil and provide temporary relief at the pump. The Strategic Petroleum Reserve Fill Suspension and Consumer Protection Act (H.R. 6022) was signed into law on May 19, 2008.

#### Pressure

OPEC to Increase Output, End Collusion

OPEC countries control nearly 70 percent of worldwide oil reserves and have consistently refused to increase output. The Justice Department should be authorized to take action against OPEC for colluding to keep the price of oil artificially high. Congressman Altmire voted in favor of the Gas Price Relief for Consumers Act (H.R. 6074) to hold OPEC accountable for price fixing on May 20, 2008, and in favor of the No Oil Producing and Exporting Cartels Act (H.R. 2264) to allow the Justice Department to take legal action against OPEC nations that participate in limiting the supply, or fixing the price, of oil on May 22, 2008.

#### Fact Sheets

#### Drilling:

Using Resources in the U.S.

#### Use It

or Lose It: The Responsible Federal Oil and Gas Lease Act

#### Republican

Arguments on Energy and Drilling are Nonsense

#### Report

on Federal Oil and Gas Leasing

#### Map of Oil

Reserves in Alaska; Map of Oil and Gas Leases in the Western United States; Map of Oil and Gas Leases in the Gulf of Mexico

#### U.S.

## Weekly Gasoline Prices, Regular Grade